

AFTER THE BRAWL WAS OVER AND AFTER THE GUESTS HAD GONE

After the brawl was over....after the pickpockets had gone. After the beer cans and whisky bottles and obscene articles were cleared away and the rubble and litter carted off. After the lights were dismantled and after the snow fences were down. After the boy regained consciousness after a savage beating by a gang of hoodlums. After the orgy of lawlessness, noise, confusion and the hooliganism at the carnival, where there was open gambling as usual, and after the woman from Lynn won the automobile. After all the visitors from out of town, some of them nice people, had stopped trampling our lawns and wearing out our facilities. After that Duxbury was given back to Duxbury. The Coney Island atmosphere vanished and the boy recovered from the beating.

No, we are not talking about the field events or the pet show or the doll carriage parade or the Duxbury Days Parade or the Miss Duxbury Days Beauty Contest or the fireworks or the bonfire. We are not talking about the propriety of celebrating the Fourth of July in a manner befitting this old, distinguished, historic and colonial community. We are talking about the tawdry, chiseling, unsavory carnival shills, charlatans and gamblers who set one fine example for our adolescents.

But the kids don't have much fun in Duxbury....The answer to all that is that Paragon Park is not that far away. We think of the boy who had saved \$30 to buy an outboard motor. He lost it in the popular gambling booth. He said he hoped to win the money back the following year. We thought of the gambler who said: "I hope I win, I can't afford to break even." What legal or moral right does a croupier have to rake in money? The carnival part of Duxbury Days reminds us of the origin of the word carnival, and sometimes a carnival is really quite carnal.

And just how much money did those concessionaires take out of the Duxbury till?

And just how much money did we taxpayers of Duxbury pay to put on the show?

We are not talking about the money we voted at Town Meeting for the Duxbury Days Parade. We are talking about the money we pay WITHOUT KNOWING IT to keep part of the Duxbury Days program deteriorating, degenerating.

Not only do we tie up our police and fire departments during the carnival, but we pay handsomely for doing so. An estimated 50,000 or 60,000 people were on hand for this year's festivities. According to Police Chief Lawrence Doyle, about 20 police from Kingston, Marshfield and Pembroke augmented the Duxbury police force during the three days. The cost for out-of-town police aid was \$930.50. But don't go away, please.

Our beach patrol worked a much heavier schedule than usual because of the swarms of out-of-towners who jammed our beaches. We don't have the figures here. Our Duxbury regulars and intermittents put in 457 extra hours at a cost of \$999.31. True, there is always some extra costs for police protection on summer weekends. For the 3-day preceding weekend, for example, the cost was \$457.72. Thus the INCREASE for the 3-day Duxbury Days period was \$541.59. It would have been much less if the carnival and all its honkytonkiness were eliminated.

Recreation

DUXBURY CLIPPER

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Now we ask our department heads what extra costs they incurred.

How about the Water Department.

How about the Tree Warden Department.

How about the Highway Department.

How about the Fire Department.

The Duxbury public has a right to know these figures.

It should also be told what organization makes what and what is done with this money. All these questions should be answered.

If taxpayers are expected to finance any organizations in town, let the matter be put to debate at our Annual Town Meeting.

We have seen some of the ill effects of the carnival over the years. Six or seven years ago, a few persons were injured when one of the machines -- the flying swing -- collapsed. Here is a quote from a letter Mrs. Sylvia Macdonald wrote in the Clipper:

"I dislike having my house used as a comfort station and being insulted and cursed when I refused to let persons who have obviously been drinking come in. A youth who came to the door after the fireworks and borrowed a flashlight to fix his car disappeared with the light....They park in driveways, leave picnic litter, beer cans....use foul language and utter obscenities, and use houses as comfort stations....leave corncocks and sticky paper....I found three obscene articles directly in front of my front door. A neighbor's fence was smashed and another's lawn was completely ruined. Cars drove over lawns and through hedges. It is fortunate there was not a serious fire, with the roads blocked in places."

Over the years Duxbury Post 223, A.L., of which we are a member, has done well in improving our annual celebration. The move to Chandler Field lessened, but by means eliminated, confusion. This year the Legion took another giant step forward when they dropped part of the parade that gives the word horrors a horrible name. Now let's take another step forward, Comrades. Let's get rid of the honkytonk, carnival part of the festivities. And now -- after the brawl is over -- is the time to give this matter serious consideration.

And to those who complain that we would, by such action, deprive our youngsters of pleasure, we reprint part of a letter the late Hector Holmes wrote in the July 14, 1955 issue of the Clipper:

"But if any Duxbury or Plymouth County parents feel that Johnny's education and development demands that he spend his savings or whatever he can extract from his parents at a carnival, let them go to Paragon Park. And the hoodlums and pickpockets can go there, also. We don't want them in Duxbury. Gambling or no gambling, let the carnival go, as it has in Quincy, for instance, which suffered a similar experience."